

Text Structure and Purpose

Question 1

Gerda Wegener (1885-1940) was a Danish artist known for her illustrations and paintings, particularly those created during her time in Paris in the 1910s and 1920s. Her work often featured fashionable women and explored themes of identity and sexuality. Wegener's art gained significant recognition in Paris, appearing in magazines such as *Vogue* and *La Vie Parisienne*, and she exhibited in prominent salons. This success allowed her to live and work as a respected artist in the vibrant Parisian art scene of the era.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- ☐ A It explains why Wegener decided to move to Paris.
- ☐ B It highlights the challenges Wegener faced in her artistic career.
- ☐ C It provides examples of Wegener's success in the Parisian art world.
- ☐ D It discusses the themes present in Wegener's artwork.

Question 2

Cultural transmission is the process by which cultural information, such as beliefs, behaviors, and knowledge, is passed from one individual or group to another. This can occur through various means, including vertical transmission (parent to child), horizontal transmission (among peers), and oblique transmission (between different, unrelated generations). Researchers study cultural transmission to understand how cultures maintain continuity, adapt, or change over time. This field of study examines how societal norms, habits, and values are perpetuated or altered across generations.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To argue for the importance of studying cultural transmission.
- ☐ B To define cultural transmission and explain its significance in understanding cultural dynamics.
- ☐ C To compare and contrast different methods of cultural transmission.
- ☐ D To present the findings of a specific study on cultural transmission.

Question 3

Bats use echolocation to navigate and hunt. A bat emits sound waves, and by analyzing the returning echoes, it can determine the location, size, and shape of objects. *Current Biology* published a study by UC Davis and UC Berkeley researchers revealing that the brains of Egyptian fruit bats are highly specialized for echolocation. Specifically, their motor areas are dedicated to sonar production, with over 40% of the sensory and motor cortex being used for tongue movements.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To discuss a study that examined the physical adaptations allowing bats to utilize echolocation for navigation.
- ☐ B To summarize research findings about the specialized brain structures that support echolocation in Egyptian fruit bats.
- ☐ C To compare the echolocation abilities of different bat species, highlighting the unique adaptations of Egyptian fruit bats.
- ☐ D To introduce the general process of echolocation in bats and its importance for their survival and hunting.

Question 4

After retiring from teaching art at a Washington, D.C., junior high school, Alma Woodsey Thomas, in her late 60s, began her career as a full-time artist. She quickly developed a unique abstract painting style using brightly colored, short brushstrokes to create patterns. Sources of inspiration for this new style included the natural world she observed from her window and the space program (NASA). In 1972, at the age of 81, Thomas became the first Black woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, a major achievement. This recognition helped solidify her place as a significant figure in American abstract art.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- ☐ A It explains why Thomas began painting in an abstract style.
- ☐ B It provides an example of the recognition Thomas received for her art.
- ☐ C It details the techniques Thomas used in her paintings.
- ☐ D It contrasts Thomas's work with that of other artists from Washington, D.C.

Question 5

Sociologist Richard Alba's work, such as his book *Remaking the American Mainstream* (2003) with Victor Nee, challenges traditional ideas about immigrant assimilation. Alba argues that assimilation is not always a complete merging into the dominant culture. Instead, he proposes that immigrant groups can maintain aspects of their ethnic identity while still becoming part of the broader society. His research suggests that for second-generation immigrants, assimilation is a complex process involving interaction between the immigrant group and the host society, leading to a changed, more inclusive mainstream.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To present Richard Alba's perspective on immigrant assimilation as a two-way process.
- ☐ B To argue that second-generation immigrants fully merge into the dominant culture.
- ☐ C To compare and contrast different sociological theories of assimilation.
- ☐ D To highlight the challenges faced by immigrants in maintaining their ethnic identity.

Question 6

In their 2008 book, *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*, Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein introduced the concept of "nudge theory" in behavioral economics. They define a nudge as an alteration to the environment that influences people's behavior predictably without restricting options or changing economic incentives. The theory suggests that people often make irrational choices and that small changes in the way choices are presented can "nudge" them toward better decisions. For example, automatically enrolling employees in retirement plans, while allowing them to opt out, is a nudge.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- ☐ A It presents a definition, then provides historical context for that definition.
- ☐ B It introduces a concept, then argues against the validity of that concept.
- ☐ C It describes a problem, then discusses various attempts to solve that problem.
- ☐ D It introduces a concept, then provides an example of that concept.

Question 7

In 2012, the *Golden Children* exhibition at the Frist Art Museum displayed European children's portraits from the 16th-19th centuries. The collection included portraits of royalty, aristocrats, and commoners. According to the museum, these portraits reflect how artists and patrons shaped the image of childhood. The *Golden Children* compilation included works by artists such as Charles Beaubrun and Jean Noret.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- ☐ A It describes a historical event and then analyzes its causes.
- ☐ B It introduces an art exhibition and then explains its significance.
- ☐ C It presents a scientific theory and then offers evidence supporting it.
- ☐ D It outlines a philosophical debate and then proposes a compromise.

Question 8

Homer's *Odyssey* recounts the ten-year journey of the Greek hero Odysseus as he attempts to return home to Ithaca after the Trojan War. Along the way, he faces numerous trials, including encounters with mythical creatures like the Cyclops and the Sirens, as well as divine intervention. The epic explores themes of homecoming, loyalty, and perseverance, particularly through Odysseus's determination to reach his wife Penelope and son Telemachus, and their efforts to remain steadfast in his long absence.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To argue that Homer's *Odyssey* is the greatest epic poem ever written.
- ☐ B To compare the challenges faced by Odysseus with those faced by other Greek heroes.
- ☐ C To provide a brief overview of the plot and major themes of Homer's *Odyssey*.
- ☐ D To suggest that the mythical creatures in Homer's *Odyssey* represent real-world obstacles.

Question 9

Margaret Sibella Brown (1866-1961) was a Canadian artist known for her detailed watercolor paintings of butterflies and moths. Her artistic talent was evident from a young age, and she dedicated her career to capturing the beauty of these insects. Brown's work was not only aesthetically pleasing but also scientifically valuable, as it provided accurate illustrations of various species. Her art contributed to the scientific understanding of butterflies and moths in Canada.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A** To discuss the scientific accuracy of Margaret Sibella Brown's paintings.
- B** To describe the techniques Margaret Sibella Brown used in her watercolor paintings.
- C** To provide an overview of Margaret Sibella Brown's life and artistic contributions.
- D** To compare Margaret Sibella Brown's work to that of other Canadian artists.

Question 10

Phillis Wheatley Peters (c. 1753–1784) was the first African American author of a published book of poetry. Born in West Africa, she was enslaved at a young age and brought to Boston. There, she was purchased by the Wheatley family, who, recognizing her talent, provided her with an education that was rare for an enslaved person. Wheatley's poems, influenced by neoclassical poets and religious themes, gained recognition in both America and England, making her a prominent literary figure of her time.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To argue that Phillis Wheatley's poetry was the most influential of her era.
- ☐ B To discuss the challenges Phillis Wheatley faced in getting her work published.
- ☐ C To compare Phillis Wheatley's writing style to that of neoclassical poets.
- ☐ D To provide a brief overview of Phillis Wheatley's life and literary significance.

Question 11

The phenomenon of "boomerang kids"—young adults returning to live with their parents after a period of independence—has become increasingly common. Michael Rosenfeld's 2007 study, *The Age of Independence*, examines this trend and its implications for family dynamics. Rosenfeld argues that the rise of the independent life stage, a period after leaving home but before starting one's own family, has altered traditional family structures and relationships. He suggests that this stage contributes to young adults returning home, influencing everything from dating practices to the formation of diverse family types.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- ☐ A It presents a problem and then discusses potential solutions to it.
- ☐ B It discusses a social trend and then challenges a common understanding of it.
- ☐ C It introduces a social phenomenon and then describes a study that analyzes it.
- ☐ D It summarizes a research study and then evaluates the validity of its findings.

Question 12

Echolocation is a biological sonar used by several animal species, including bats, dolphins, and whales. It allows them to navigate and locate objects by emitting sound waves and listening for echoes. Bats, in particular, use echolocation for hunting and orientation in darkness. They produce calls and analyze the returning echoes to determine the distance, size, and shape of objects. This sophisticated sensory system enables bats to effectively navigate and find prey in environments where vision is limited. Different bat species have evolved variations in their echolocation calls and how they interpret the echoes, adapting to different habitats and hunting strategies.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A** It challenges a common misconception about how bats use their senses.
- B** It provides a specific example of a bat species that relies heavily on echolocation.
- C** It introduces a new concept that is further explained in the sentences that follow.
- D** It summarizes the importance of echolocation for bats, based on the information presented earlier.

Question 13

Researchers have long been interested in why people are drawn to certain works of art and not others. While factors like symmetry and complexity play a role, they don't fully explain the variability in artistic taste. A study in *Psychological Science* by Edward A. Vessel and colleagues suggests a significant personal factor: how much a piece of art relates to an individual's memories, identity, or life experiences. The study found that participants rated artworks as more aesthetically pleasing when they perceived them as personally relevant.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A** To summarize a study that offers an explanation for why people prefer certain works of art.
- B** To argue that personal relevance is the only factor that determines artistic preference.
- C** To describe the limitations of using symmetry and complexity to explain artistic taste.
- D** To advocate for incorporating personal experiences into art education programs.

Question 14

Oscar Wilde's play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, first performed in 1895, is a satirical comedy set in late Victorian England. The story follows two men, Jack and Algernon, who create fake identities to escape their social obligations. Jack pretends to have a troublesome brother named Ernest, while Algernon invents an invalid friend named Bunbury. Through their deceptions and romantic pursuits, Wilde critiques the superficiality and hypocrisy of the upper class and the societal norms of the time. The play is celebrated for its witty dialogue and commentary on honesty and identity.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To argue that *The Importance of Being Earnest* is Oscar Wilde's most famous play.
- ☐ B To provide a brief overview of Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- ☐ C To explain the historical context that influenced Oscar Wilde's writing of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- ☐ D To analyze the themes of honesty and identity in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Question 15

In 2018, researchers led by Martin Kundrát identified a new species of the genus *Archaeopteryx*, naming it *Archaeopteryx albersdoerferi*. This discovery was based on "specimen number eight," one of only twelve known *Archaeopteryx* fossils found in Bavaria, Germany. Using advanced 3D X-ray analysis, Kundrát's team found that *A. albersdoerferi* had skeletal features, such as fused cranial bones and a reinforced wrist and hand, that were more similar to modern birds than to dinosaurs, suggesting it was better adapted for flight than other *Archaeopteryx* species.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- ☐ A To argue that *Archaeopteryx albersdoerferi* is the most important *Archaeopteryx* specimen discovered to date.
- ☐ B To describe the discovery and characteristics of a newly identified species of *Archaeopteryx*.
- ☐ C To compare the flying abilities of *Archaeopteryx albersdoerferi* with those of modern birds.
- ☐ D To explain the method researchers used to analyze the fossil of *Archaeopteryx albersdoerferi*.

Question 16

Arctic ground squirrels are exceptional hibernators. During the winter months, their body temperature can drop to as low as -2.9°C , which is the lowest body temperature recorded in any mammal. This allows them to survive the harsh Arctic winters for up to eight months without food or water. However, these squirrels periodically warm their bodies to normal temperatures for a few hours every two to three weeks. Researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks are studying this unique ability, hoping to understand the biological mechanisms involved. Their findings could potentially lead to new medical treatments for humans, such as preventing muscle loss or protecting organs during surgery or critical illness.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- ☐ A It explains how the squirrels are able to lower their body temperature.
- ☐ B It provides a detail about the squirrels' hibernation that researchers are studying.
- ☐ C It emphasizes how long the squirrels can maintain a state of deep hibernation.
- ☐ D It contrasts the hibernation of Arctic ground squirrels with that of other mammals.

Question 17

Social media has become a pervasive force in modern life, transforming how individuals interact and share information. While platforms like Facebook and Instagram facilitate connection and community building, research indicates potential negative impacts. Studies suggest links between heavy social media use and increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and social isolation. The curated nature of online profiles can lead to unfavorable social comparisons and a distorted sense of reality for users.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A** To argue that social media should be avoided due to its negative effects on mental health.
- B** To compare and contrast different social media platforms and their features.
- C** To discuss the mixed impact of social media, including both benefits and drawbacks.
- D** To provide a historical overview of the rise of social media and its popularity.

Question 18

Archerfish, a group of fish known for their ability to shoot down insects with water jets, exhibit remarkable accuracy. These fish can hit prey up to 3 meters away, despite their small size. Their hunting success relies on compensating for light refraction and gravity by adjusting their spitting angle and modulating the water jet's force and shape. This allows the archerfish to be an incredibly efficient predator in their environment.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- ☐ A It introduces the Archerfish's unique hunting method.
- ☐ B It explains the specific adaptations that contribute to the Archerfish's hunting accuracy.
- ☐ C It contrasts the hunting techniques of Archerfish with other fish species.
- ☐ D It discusses the evolution of the Archerfish's spitting ability.

Question 19

In their 2020 paper, "Language and Social Hierarchy: Complementing *Whorfian* Approaches with the Concept of Politeness," researchers explored how language reflects and shapes social structures. They discuss how linguistic politeness, using indirectness or honorifics, helps maintain social order and reinforce hierarchical relationships. This perspective moves beyond simply how language categorizes the world, as proposed by the *Whorfian* hypothesis, to consider how language is actively used to perform social actions and manage interpersonal dynamics within a given social structure.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- ☐ A It presents a study's findings and then criticizes the methodology of that study.
- ☐ B It introduces a concept and then provides historical examples to illustrate its development.
- ☐ C It discusses a research topic and then explains an approach to understanding that topic.
- ☐ D It describes a social phenomenon and then argues for its decline in modern society.

Question 20

The following text is from Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem *To William Shelley*. The speaker is reflecting on the memory of his young son who has passed away.

The billows on the beach are leaping around it, | The bark is weak and frail, | The sea looks black, and the clouds that bound it | Darkly strew the gale. | Thy little footsteps on the sands | Of a remote and lonely shore; | The twinkling of thine infant hands, | Where now the worm will feed no more; | Thy mingled look of love and glee | When we returned to gaze on thee--

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined lines in the text as a whole?

- A** A) They suggest that the child was frightened by the storm described in the earlier lines.
- B** B) They describe a specific, fond memory of the child's happy reaction to seeing the speaker.
- C** C) They emphasize the dangerous conditions of the sea and the isolation of the shore.
- D** D) They offer a prediction about the future success the child would have achieved in adulthood.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: C

The underlined sentence states where Wegener's art appeared and where she exhibited. This information shows that she was successful in Paris. Therefore, the underlined sentence provides examples of her success. (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not mention why she moved to Paris. (B) is incorrect because the sentence describes her success, not challenges. (D) is incorrect because the sentence focuses on where her art was shown, not the themes within it.

Question 2

Correct Answer: B

The passage defines what cultural transmission is and explains why studying it is important for understanding how cultures change or stay the same. Choice (A) is too narrow because the passage does more than just argue for importance; it also defines the term. Choice (C) is incorrect because while it mentions different types of transmission, comparing and contrasting them is not the main focus. Choice (D) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss a specific study.

Question 3

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about a study that found Egyptian fruit bats have specialized brains for echolocation.

(B) is correct because it accurately says the main purpose is to summarize

the findings on specialized brain structures in bats.

(A) is incorrect because the study is about the brain, not physical adaptations.

(C) is incorrect because the passage does not compare different bat species.

(D) is incorrect because the passage focuses on the brain specialization, not just introducing echolocation.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The underlined sentence talks about Alma Thomas having a solo exhibition at a major museum, which is a form of recognition for her work. The correct answer should describe this. (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not explain her style. (C) is incorrect because the sentence does not discuss her techniques. (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not compare her work to others. The correct answer (B) accurately describes how the sentence provides an example of the recognition she received.

Question 5

Correct Answer: A

The passage mainly talks about Richard Alba's idea that when immigrants join a new society, it's not just the immigrants who change, but the main society changes too. This is called a two-way process. (A) says the same thing. (B) is wrong because the passage says immigrants keep some of their culture. (C) is wrong because the passage only talks about Alba's idea, not many different ideas. (D) is wrong because the passage focuses on how the main society changes, not just the challenges for immigrants.

Question 6

Correct Answer: D

The passage starts by introducing the concept of "nudge theory." Then, it provides an example of this theory in practice (automatic enrollment in retirement plans). This matches the structure described in (D). (A) is incorrect because while a definition is presented, the text doesn't focus on historical context. (B) is incorrect because the text introduces the concept but does not argue against it. (C) is incorrect because the passage introduces a concept, not a general problem with various solutions.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

The question asks about the overall structure of the passage. The passage introduces an art exhibition, the *Golden Children* exhibition, and then explains its significance by describing what the portraits included reflect. Therefore, the correct answer should be (B).

(A) is incorrect because the passage does not analyze the causes of a historical event. (C) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss a scientific theory. (D) is incorrect because the passage does not outline a philosophical debate.

Question 8

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about what Homer's *Odyssey* is about, mentioning the main character, his journey, and some of the big ideas or themes in the story. (C) says the passage gives a short summary of the story and its main ideas, which is exactly what the passage does. (A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say the *Odyssey* is the greatest epic. (B) is wrong because the passage doesn't compare Odysseus to other heroes. (D) is wrong

because the passage doesn't say the mythical creatures represent real things.

Question 9

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about Margaret Sibella Brown, when she was born and died, what kind of art she made, and why her art was important. This means the main purpose is to give an overview of her life and what she did.

(A) is incorrect because while the passage mentions the scientific accuracy of her paintings, this is only one detail, not the main purpose. (B) is incorrect because the passage does not describe her painting techniques. (D) is incorrect because the passage does not compare her work to other artists.

Question 10

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about when Phillis Wheatley was born, where she was from, how she was educated, and how her poetry was received. This means the passage gives a short summary of her life and why she is important in literature. So, (D) is the best answer. (A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say her poetry was the most influential. (B) is wrong because while she did face challenges, the passage doesn't focus on them. (C) is wrong because the passage only briefly mentions her influences, not a detailed comparison.

Question 11

Correct Answer: C

The passage starts by introducing the social phenomenon of "boomerang kids." It then discusses Michael Rosenfeld's study that analyzes this trend

and its implications. This matches the structure described in choice (C). Choice (A) is incorrect because the passage doesn't present a problem or solutions. Choice (B) is incorrect because the passage doesn't challenge a common understanding; it describes a study's analysis. Choice (D) is incorrect because the passage summarizes the study but does not evaluate its validity.

Question 12

Correct Answer: D

The passage explains what echolocation is and how bats use it. The underlined sentence says that echolocation helps bats navigate and find food in the dark. This summarizes what was said before about bats using calls and echoes to find objects.

(A) is wrong because the sentence doesn't mention or challenge any common misconception.

(B) is wrong because the sentence talks about bats in general, not a specific species.

(C) is wrong because echolocation is introduced and explained before the underlined sentence, not after.

Question 13

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about a study that looked at why people like some art more than others. It explains that the study found that people liked art more if it felt personal to them. Option (A) says the passage summarizes a study about why people like certain art, which is true. Option (B) is wrong because the passage mentions other factors besides personal relevance. Option (C) is too narrow because it only talks about the limitations of some factors, not the main point of the passage. Option (D) is not mentioned in the passage at all.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about what Oscar Wilde's play is about. It mentions the characters, the setting, and the main ideas. This is a summary of the play. Therefore, the main purpose is to give a brief overview of the play, which is what (B) says. (A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say it's Wilde's most famous play. (C) is wrong because while it mentions the historical setting, it doesn't explain the historical context that influenced the writing. (D) is wrong because it only mentions the themes briefly and doesn't analyze them in detail.

Question 15

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about how scientists found a new type of *Archaeopteryx*, what they named it, and what makes it special. (B) says the same thing by talking about the discovery and what the new species is like. (A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say this species is the most important. (C) is wrong because the passage compares the new species to other *Archaeopteryx* species and dinosaurs, not modern birds. (D) is too narrow because the passage talks about more than just how the scientists studied the fossil; it also talks about what they found.

Question 16

Correct Answer: B

The underlined sentence talks about how the squirrels warm their bodies during hibernation. The next sentence says that researchers are studying this ability. So, the underlined sentence gives a detail about the squirrels' hibernation that researchers are studying. (A) is incorrect because the sentence does not explain how the squirrels lower their body temperature.

(C) is incorrect because the sentence is about periodic warming, not maintaining deep hibernation. (D) is incorrect because the sentence does not compare Arctic ground squirrels to other mammals.

Question 17

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about how social media helps people connect but also mentions that it can make people feel anxious or isolated. It presents both the good and bad sides of social media. This matches choice (C), which says the text discusses the mixed impact of social media, including benefits and drawbacks. Choice (A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say people should avoid social media entirely. Choice (B) is wrong because the passage doesn't compare different platforms. Choice (D) is wrong because the passage doesn't talk about the history of social media.

Question 18

Correct Answer: B

The passage first states that Archerfish are accurate hunters. The underlined sentence then describes how they achieve this accuracy, by mentioning how they compensate for light refraction and gravity and adjust their spitting. This explanation supports the claim of accuracy.

(A) is incorrect because the unique hunting method is introduced in the sentence before the underlined one.

(C) is incorrect because the passage does not compare Archerfish hunting to other fish.

(D) is incorrect because the passage describes the mechanism of hunting, not its evolutionary history.

Question 19

Correct Answer: C

The passage begins by introducing the research topic of how language reflects and shapes social structures. It then explains the researchers' approach, which involves looking at linguistic politeness. Therefore, the structure is a discussion of a topic followed by an explanation of an approach. This matches choice (C). Choice (A) is incorrect because the passage does not criticize the study's methodology. Choice (B) is incorrect because no historical examples are provided. Choice (D) is incorrect because the passage does not argue that the social phenomenon is declining.

Question 20

Correct Answer: B

The correct answer is **(B)**. The underlined lines describe the child looking at the speaker with "love and glee" when the speaker returned. This is a specific, positive memory of the child's expression.

(A) is incorrect because the text says the child had a look of "glee" (happiness), not fear.

(C) is incorrect because these lines focus on the child's face and emotions, not the setting of the beach or the sea, which are described earlier in the poem.

(D) is incorrect because the lines are about a past memory, not a prediction about the future.